

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Division of Patent Application Serial No. 09/034,139 of

TSUBAKI et al

Atty. Ref.: 330-242

Serial No. to be assigned

Group:

Filed: December 5, 2001

Examiner:

For: SUPPORT FOR IMAGING MATERIAL

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December 5, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In order to place the above-identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1-19.

Add the following new claims.

20. (New) A method of producing a resin-coated-paper-based support for an imaging material having the support and an image-forming layer, which support comprises a base paper made of a natural pulp as a main component and at least three resin layers coated on a side of the base paper where an image is to be formed, said at least three resin layers including a lowermost layer formed on the base paper, an

intermediate layer formed on the lowermost layer and an uppermost layer formed on the intermediate layer,

the method comprising coating at least one resin layer for the lowermost layer on the base paper by melt extrusion, and then coating resin layers for the intermediate layer and the uppermost layer on the lowermost layer by concurrent extrusion to form a multi-layered resin layer on the base paper.

21. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the multi-layered resin layer has three layers consisting of the uppermost layer, the intermediate layer and the lowermost layer.

22. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the uppermost layer is coated at a temperature lower than a temperature at which the lowermost layer is coated.

23. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the support is produced at a production rate or base paper running rate of at least 250 m/minute.

24. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein polyethylene-based resin components forming layers positioned below the uppermost layer have an average density of 0.928 g/cm³ or less.

25. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the uppermost layer has a thickness that is 50% or less based on a total thickness of the multi-layered resin layer, and each of layers positioned below the uppermost layer contains a largest amount of a polyethylene-based resin having a density of less than 0.940 g/cm³.

26. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the uppermost layer contains at least 50% by weight of a polyethylene-based resin having a density of at least 0.940 g/cm³.

27. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the base paper is made of a natural pulp having an average fiber length of 0.3 to 0.8 mm as a main component.

28. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the natural pulp is a broad-leaved tree pulp.

29. The method of claim 20, wherein the base paper has a surface on which the multi-layered resin layer is not formed and the surface is coated with a polyethylene-based resin.

REMARKS

This application is a division of parent application Serial No. 09/034,139 filed February 22, 1998 (on which the issue fee has been paid) directed to additional aspects of the invention.

The above new claims are supported in the disclosure as shown below.

Claim 1: page 44, line 5 from the bottom to page 45, line 4

Claim 2: original claim 17

Claim 3: page 26, lines 7 to 17

Claim 4: claim 19

Claim 5: claim 15 and page 38, last paragraph to page 39, second paragraph

Claim 6: claim 11

Claim 7: page 36, lines 8 to 13

Claim 8: page 16, second paragraph

Claim 9: page 15, line 9 "broad-leaved tree craft pulp"

Claim 10: page 30, line 12 "polyethylene resin for the reverse side".

Please examine the above claims taking the prior art of record in the parent application into account to the extent it may be relevant to the subject matter claimed herein.

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